

Mint of the United States, at Philadelphia,

Assay Department.

Sept. 16 - 1886.

Sir:

I have the honor herewith to hand you my resignation of the Office of Assistant Assayer of this Mint, to take effect on the first day of October next.

I feel deeply the severance of a connection which extends not only through nearly twenty years of my own service, but which reaches by an inheritance to the earliest days of the Mint itself. The history of this Institution is in large part the biography of my own kin, and nothing could induce me to break the tie, but the opportunity, now offered, in another sphere of life.

It has always been a gratification to me to know that no one ~~at~~ was ever displaced to make room for my appointment, and that I reached my present position only by regular promotion, when death vacated the

ranked above me. I say this not to glorify myself, but rather to exalt the system by which this department has for more than half a century been governed.

If you have not failed to perceive the truth of Thomas Jefferson's remark that "Assaying is the most confidential operation in the whole business of Coins," you will recognize the fact that the accurate maintenance of the Standards is at the root, not only of our reputation as a Scientific Institution but also of our national financial credit and our honorable position at home and abroad.

To subserve this, my successor needs to be not so much a chemist as an assayer, not so much a theorist as a man of business. I venture to assert that nowhere else has an approach ever been made to our ^{speed} ~~continued~~ without undue sacrifice of accuracy. To reach this, especially in the Silver Assay, a professional Scientist is often precluded by the very profession

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Assay Department.

that might at first sight seem to be his first requirement. To ~~reach~~ ^{attain} the high point of business despatch, in a great pressure of work which must be scientifically exact, is ~~one of the secrets~~ what must be demanded of my successor, or something must fall short.

I consider this one of the most trying, the most wearing, in some respects one of the most responsible positions in the whole civil service. To carry it out as it should be, one must be not only ~~so~~ manually expert, but he must be familiar with all the traditional usages and principles of the department. I mean not to transcend my privileges, when I repeat to you that I believe Mr William McIntire more nearly fulfils these conditions than any one that can be found. There is no school of minting outside of the Mint. Our calling is unique.

Permit me also to add a word of commendation
~~to~~ of our helpers in the laboratory who have
~~only~~ come there only after being duly tried in
 other departments of the mint. They have
 largely held my reputation in their hands, and
 experience proves that my trust in their exceptional
 energy, skill and good character has not been
 misplaced.

In conclusion, I thank you for your
 uniform courtesy to me personally, as well
 as for your assurances that the department
 shall continue to have your generous and
 hearty support.

Very Respectfully

Patterson A. Davis

Assistant Assayer

Hon. Daniel M. Fox
 Sept 22 1886.

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Phila. Pa.

U. S. Mint.

Phila. Pa.

Sept. 16. 1886

Patterson Du Bois.

Asst. Assayer.

Tenders his resignation &
 recommends Mr William
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[Abstract:] Tenders his resignation & recommends Mr. William McIntyre as his successor.

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It has always been a gratification to me to know that no one was ever displaced to make room for my appointment, and that I reached my present position only by regular promotion, when Death vacated the ranks above me. I say this not to glorify myself, but rather to exalt the system by which this department has for more than half a century been governed.

If you have not failed to perceive the truth of Thomas Jefferson's remark that "Assaying is the most confidential operation in the whole business of Coinage", you will recognize the fact that the accurate maintenance of the Standards is at the root, not only of our reputation as a Scientific Institution but also of our national financial credit and our honorable position at home and abroad.

To secure this, my successor needs to be not so much a chemist as an Assayer, not so much a theorist as a man of business. I venture to assert that nowhere else has an approach ever been made to our speed without undue sacrifice of accuracy. To reach this, especially in the Silver Assay, a professional scientist is often precluded by the very profession that might at first light seem to be this first requirement. To attain the high point of business dispatch, in a great pressure of work which must be scientifically exact, is what must be demanded of my successor, or something must fall short.

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In conclusion, I thank you for your uniform courtesy to me personally, as well as for your assurances that the department shall continue to have your generous and hearty support.

Very Respectfully,
Patterson Du Bois
Assistant Assayer

Hon. Daniel M. Fox
Supt. &c. &c. &c.